



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022

No. 177

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 16, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ALFREDO ACOSTA FIGUEROA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and dear friend, Alfredo Acosta Figueroa, for his lifelong dedication to social justice and his relentless advocacy for civil rights during the Chicano Movement with Cesar Chavez and Bert Corona.

Alfredo Acosta Figueroa was born in Blythe, California, to a fifth-generation indigenous-Chicano family from

the Colorado River Indian Reservation, which encompasses the Palo Verde Valley in California and all through Parker Valley in Arizona.

From a young age, Alfredo learned the values of social justice from his family. As a young kid working in the mines, his parents taught him the values of standing up for himself, caring for his neighbors, and standing by his coworkers.

Because of his family's lessons, he has dedicated his entire life to safeguarding the civil, voting, working, and environmental rights of disenfranchised and indigenous communities.

In the late 1950s, Alfredo and his brothers, known as the Figueroa Brothers, became actively involved in the civil rights movement. Together, they fought against injustices in Blythe, the Coachella Valley, and throughout the American Southwest.

Through it all, Alfredo was mentored by two highly respected Chicano leaders: Humberto "Bert" Corona, an immigration rights activist with the Mexican American Political Association; and Cesar Chavez, the civil rights leader of the United Farm Workers.

Corona and Chavez's mentorship only deepened Alfredo's passion for human rights, encouraging him to further pursue equity and social justice for his community.

Over the years, Figueroa has worn many hats and has undertaken monumental roles, including that of lifetime "gambusino" or miner, civil rights activist, humanitarian, farm labor organizer, staunch environmentalist, anti-nuclear activist, historian, political coordinator, boxing coordinator, folkloric singer and guitarist, indigenous traditionalist, and author, just to name a few.

So now, he leads the protection of sacred indigenous sites within the Lower Colorado River Basin and Palo Verde and Parker Valleys.

Thanks to Alfredo's leadership, many historical indigenous sacred sites and

bodies of water have been protected. This includes the Sacred Mule Mountains, the Lower Colorado River, the world-renowned Blythe Giant Intaglios, and over 300 other sacred sites. Alfredo has achieved all this and more by following his guiding principle to never give up.

One of his famous sayings, "La Lucha Indeterminable," or "The Never-Ending Struggle," has kept him motivated in his lifelong mission to share, educate, organize, and regain indigenous cosmic traditional culture.

Alfredo's compelling force to provoke change has found inspiration in two indigenous philosophies: First, the Neltiliztli, or "the birth of the new knowledge," meaning that we must always seek the truth;

Second, the ancient Nahuatl teachings of Tloque Nahuaque, or the saying, "among all, we do all, for the betterment of all." Both have allowed him to persist in this long journey and inspire many others.

So, to my dear friend, Alfredo Acosta Figueroa, you personify the dedication, resiliency, and carino of so many of our communities. Your life of service will forever be an inspiration for all people, and we are in great debt to you.

On behalf of California's 36th Congressional District, I thank you for your continued dedication and challenging work in the protection of our ancestral sacred lands.

"Mexica Tiahui," "Move Forward."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF ANTHONY "TONY" G. D'ALEO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Anthony D'Aleo on his recent induction into the Florida Veterans' Hall of Fame.

Anthony, better known as Tony, served in the U.S. Army and later in

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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